



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
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MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MAJCOM COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Air Force Depot Maintenance Strategy

Over the past year we have conducted a comprehensive review of our depot maintenance strategy to ensure that our remaining post BRAC depot capability is properly sized to provide robust support to the full range of potential warfighting requirements and is efficiently utilized in peacetime. The downsizing of our operational forces and associated workloads; the downsizing of our organic infrastructure; a more active and robust private sector; the introduction of new technologies; and depot legislation changes dictated the need to review our current posture and future planning. You have participated in this review process through a series of Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) Corona briefings over the last year as our strategy has evolved.

This review re-affirmed that maintenance is a core competency of the Air Force and a key combat enabler. Depot maintenance is a critical element of our overall warfighting capability. Our most recent experience in support of Operation Allied Force once again proved the wisdom of having access to a ready and controlled source of depot maintenance capability. As a consequence, our depot strategy must ensure that we possess an organic "core" capability sized to support our 2 Major Theater War planning scenario. The "core" sizing will be re-assessed every two years to ensure that we are maintaining a robust capability over time as equipment and workloads change.

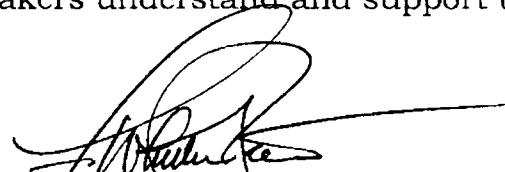
We also recognize the need to ensure that our organic facilities are efficiently workloaded in peacetime. To do that we have chosen to allow them to compete for workload above the "core" requirement on a best value basis with private industry. In addition, our organic facilities will continue to support last source and other unique requirements. We call this Air Force depot maintenance strategy "core plus".

The Air Force will continue to rely on our private sector partners for maintenance on workloads for which they are best suited. Workloads not required to sustain a core capability will be considered for a public-private competition. Decision to compete these workloads, however, can only be made after HQ AFMC certifies the Air Force is within the private sector workload allocation thresholds required by 10 USC § 2466 ("50/50" law).

During the course of this review we have also reached the conclusion that tying together long-range weapon system sustainment planning, core logistics capability, and "50/50" considerations must be done through a deliberate corporate decision process. As a result, we have integrated the depot source of repair assignment process (SORAP) into our Acquisition Strategy Panel (ASP) reviews. This merging of SORAP and ASP will ensure smart corporate decisions are made for our weapon systems in consonance with our need to ensure that we retain the necessary public and private maintenance capabilities.

The Air Force now has an approved Depot Maintenance Strategy. The capacity at each of the three remaining Air Force depots is sized appropriately through the current planning horizon. We will continue to assess core requirements, capability, and workload assignments over time as new systems and upgrades come into the inventory and workload needs change on our aging legacy systems. We believe that this Depot Maintenance Strategy will fully support our peacetime readiness needs while providing us a robust warfighting capability and at an affordable cost. To make this strategy work effectively will require the active support of everyone in the Air Force. We expect that each of you will ensure that your key decision makers understand and support this strategy.


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Secretary of the Air Force